USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service

Indiana Crop & Weather Report

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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING AUGUST 5

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Hot, dry weather persisted over most of the state last week causing additional stress to both crops and livestock, according to the Indiana Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. It was the hottest week of the year thus far with afternoon temperatures averaging above the 90 degree mark. Major crops and pastures were under stress from the extreme heat and lack of adequate soil moisture. Only a few areas received significant rainfall while other areas received no precipitation. The soybean crop is at a critical stage of development for setting and filling of pods. Farmers in some areas are spraying soybeans to control aphids and spider mites.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

There were 6.5 **days suitable for field work**. **Corn condition** declined and is rated 44 percent good to excellent compared with 68 percent last year at this time. Ninety-eight percent of the **corn** acreage has **silked** compared with 93 percent last year and 92 percent for the 5-year average. Forty-five percent of the corn acreage is in the **dough** stage compared with 38 percent last year and 35 percent for the average. Five percent of the corn acreage is now **dented** compared with 5 percent for last year and 6 percent for the 5-year average. Ninety-two percent of the **soybean** acreage is **blooming** compared with 82 percent last year and 85 percent for the average. Sixty percent of the soybean acreage is **setting pods** compared with 44 percent last year and 49 percent for the average. **Soybean condition** declined and is rated 44 percent good to excellent compared with 66 percent last year at this time.

Third cutting of **alfalfa hay** has begun on some farms. Major activities during the week included: scouting fields, spraying, hauling grain, harvesting silage, cleaning out grain bins, maintaining irrigation equipment, cutting and baling hay, tiling of fields and taking care of livestock.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

Pasture condition is rated 0% excellent, 9% good, 27% fair, 33% poor, and 31% very poor. Livestock were under some stress from the hot temperatures during the week.

CROP PROGRESS TABLE

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
		Percent		
Corn Silked	98	94	93	92
Corn in Dough	45	27	38	35
Corn in Dent	5	1	5	6
Soybeans Blooming	92	84	82	85
Soybeans Setting Pods	60	39	44	49

CROP CONDITION TABLE

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel-lent
			Percent		
Corn	7	15	34	38	6
Soybean	5	14	37	38	6
Pasture	31	33	27	9	0

SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK TABLE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
		Percent	
Topsoil			
Very Short	29	16	3
Short	40	36	22
Adequate	31	47	71
Surplus	0	1	4
Subsoil			
Very Short	33	28	3
Short	41	39	15
Adequate	26	33	78
Surplus	0	0	4
Days Suitable	6.5	5.3	6.0

CONTACT INFORMATION

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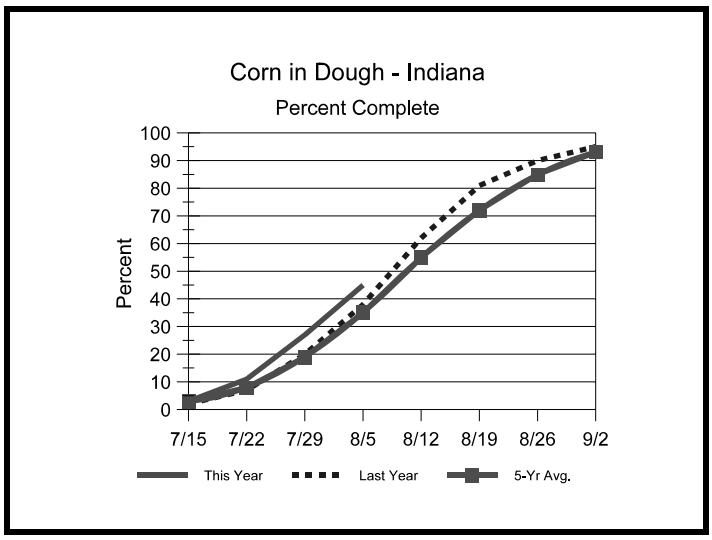
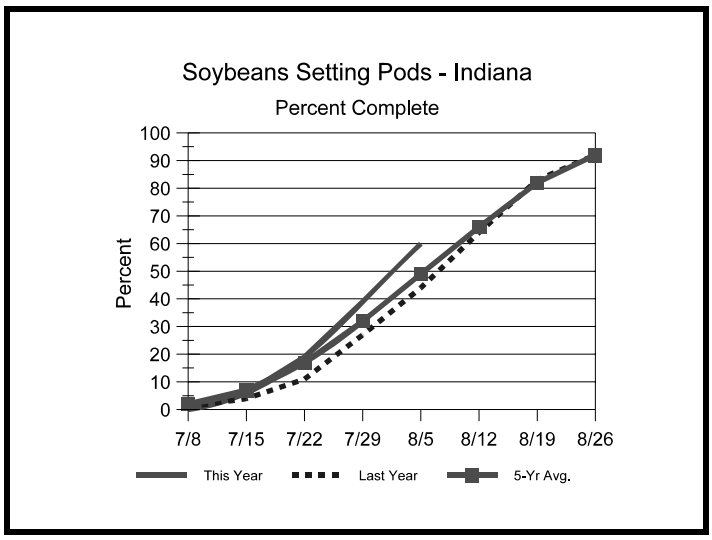
http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Indiana/

Crop Progress





Other Agricultural Comments And News

Some Options for Supplementing Inadequate Forage Supply

An early spring freeze and extreme dry weather this season has resulted in less than average forage production on many Indiana farms. Because of these weather-related concerns, the Indiana Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative committee is suggesting ways for livestock producers to supplement limited supplies of winter feed.

Not all of the suggested options will work for every producer but perhaps one or a combination of the options suggested will help reduce the shortage of winter feed supplies.

Haying and Grazing of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres may be an option. Contact your county FSA office to see about authorized Emergency or Managed Haying and Grazing of CRP. Also talk with neighboring CRP owners about using their forage through CRP's authorized haying/grazing provisions. While this feed may not be of high forage quality, supplementing it with a small amount of energy and protein may be adequate for dry stock and pre-lactation animals.

Fallow wheat land can be an excellent location for growing late-summer forage. Some suggestions include seeding spring oat at 2 bushels per acre along with forage turnip at 2 pounds per acre. Seeding can be done from mid-July through very early September. The forage mixture is best harvested as silage or by grazing. Because of the high quality of this feed it is suggested that it be limit fed to livestock with less nutrient requirements at a rate of one-fourth oat and turnip, and three-fourths low quality forage like corn residue. When grazed, the perfect solution would be to have an adjoining field of harvested corn or lower quality CRP forage and to strip graze the oat and turnip combination. Livestock should have access to limited amounts of the oat and turnip so they don't fail to eat the corn residue. With adequate acres this feed could be used from corn harvest until early spring. An article discussing use of spring oat as a fall and winter feed resource can be found on line at <http://www.agriculture.purdue.edu/AgAnswers/story.asp?storyID=4529>. A publication from the University of Illinois entitled "Extending Fall Grazing with Brassicas and Cereal Grain" is also available on line at <http://www.livestocktrail.uiuc.edu/pasturenet/paperDisplay.cfm?ContentID=8164>.

Other seeding options and considerations. Early fall seeding of annual ryegrass, winter wheat or winter cereal rye can produce late fall, winter and early spring feed. Refer to the labels of herbicides used in the past year or two on the acreage to be seeded to avoid carryover concerns. If this is not an option on your farm consider renting wheat land with adjoining corn residue acreage from a nearby cash grain farmer. It can improve his return per acre as well as provide you with additional low cost feed.

Cereal winter rye, winter wheat or spring oat can be broadcast into standing corn by airplane by early September with the intention of grazing the small grain forage and corn residue together. This seeding option has some risk as adequate soil moisture needs to be available for germination of the broadcasted seed and the successful establishment of the seedlings.

If fencing is a concern for grazing, consider a temporary single high-tensile 12.5 gauge electrified wire with single corner posts and small fiberglass posts to support the wire. Ensure the fencing is adequate to control livestock. Subdivide the grazable area with a poly wire and tread in posts. Consider allotting a one-to three-day supply of feed and then moving the livestock to minimize possible compaction. The fencing can be easily removed once the grazing is completed. If livestock are not familiar with electric fence they

(Continued on Page 4)

Weather Information Table

Week ending Sunday August 5, 2007

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation				
	Air Temperature				Precip.		Avg 4 in Soil	April 1, 2007 thru August 5, 2007				
								Precipitation			GDD Base 50°F	
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Temp	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
Northwest (1)												
Chalmers_5W	94	58	75	+2	0.14	1		13.19	-2.66	38	2053	+55
Francesville	89	57	74	+2	0.00	0		14.86	-0.99	40	1961	+124
Valparaiso_AP_I	90	57	76	+4	0.22	1		8.08	-8.56	30	2049	+244
Wanatah	91	50	72	+2	0.45	1	84	13.53	-2.67	39	1887	+161
Winamac	89	58	74	+3	0.46	1	81	17.30	+1.45	41	1980	+143
North Central(2)												
Plymouth	91	54	73	+0	0.42	1		16.25	-0.27	44	1918	+1
South_Bend	90	55	75	+4	1.47	1		14.68	-0.84	34	2089	+298
Young_America	91	60	75	+2	0.03	1		11.69	-3.61	42	2072	+192
Northeast (3)												
Columbia_City	92	54	75	+5	0.52	1	77	10.38	-5.17	44	1928	+220
Fort_Wayne	93	56	77	+4	0.83	1		10.36	-4.05	42	2113	+238
West Central(4)												
Greencastle	91	58	75	-1	0.10	1		13.73	-4.43	39	2039	-82
Perrysville	91	58	76	+3	0.05	1	84	12.37	-4.92	37	2265	+277
Spencer_Ag	92	60	77	+3	0.44	1		19.11	+0.55	40	2118	+123
Terre_Haute_AFB	92	61	77	+3	0.53	1		15.69	-1.82	40	2267	+149
W_Lafayette_6NW	91	58	74	+2	0.07	1	81	14.26	-1.65	42	2109	+230
Central (5)												
Eagle_Creek_AP	93	64	80	+5	0.05	1		10.39	-5.93	43	2386	+287
Greenfield	93	61	77	+4	0.01	1		10.85	-7.12	48	2165	+160
Indianapolis_AP	93	67	80	+6	0.53	1		10.16	-6.16	43	2424	+325
Indianapolis_SE	92	60	77	+2	0.02	1		13.02	-3.98	44	2162	+83
Tipton_Ag	92	60	75	+3	0.02	1	82	11.55	-4.59	45	2007	+185
East Central(6)												
Farmland	92	57	74	+3	0.03	1	80	10.68	-5.17	44	1967	+193
New_Castle	90	58	75	+3	0.05	1		11.82	-5.60	36	2011	+197
Southwest (7)												
Evansville	96	65	81	+4	0.00	0		11.03	-5.84	37	2651	+195
Freelandville	92	66	79	+4	1.79	1		12.51	-4.99	40	2412	+221
Shoals	93	59	76	+2	0.33	1		15.27	-3.70	38	2236	+128
Stendal	98	65	81	+4	1.05	2		13.95	-4.73	41	2659	+356
Vincennes_5NE	94	64	79	+4	0.57	2		14.14	-3.36	42	2497	+306
South Central(8)												
Leavenworth	95	65	79	+5	0.54	3		14.73	-4.50	45	2432	+329
Oolitic	93	62	78	+4	0.32	1	80	13.62	-4.40	36	2181	+170
Tell_City	94	66	80	+4	0.32	2		17.16	-1.87	31	2613	+281
Southeast (9)												
Brookville	96	61	78	+5	0.00	0		11.46	-5.95	33	2261	+359
Greensburg	93	63	78	+6	0.08	1		13.74	-3.73	40	2308	+346
Scottsburg	95	59	78	+3	0.64	1		16.63	-1.21	39	2348	+174

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).
GDD = Growing Degree Days.
Precipitation (Rainfall or melted snow/ice) in inches.
Precipitation Days = Days with precip of .01 inch or more.
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

The above weather information is provided by AWIS, Inc.
For detailed ag weather forecasts and data visit the AWIS home page at
www.awis.com

should be properly trained by placing an electric wire across a confined area to allow them to test the single-wire system. If water is not available in the field being grazed it will need to be provided on a daily basis. Livestock water needs are less at that time of year because of cooler seasonal temperatures.

If grazing isn't an option consider harvesting corn stover behind the combine. If possible, remove the spreader-chopper from the back of the combine to make a windrow of shucks and cobs for round baling or chopping. This will be more costly than grazing but much larger acreages can be available for machine harvest. Harvest all the windrows as any left in the field will impact tillage and emergence of the following crop sown.

If applicable, ensure your activities on cropland are consistent with your USDA Program benefits requirements. Planting cover crops and other forages in rotation, implementing a managed grazing system, and/or baling residue under managed conditions should help provide long-term soil health and maintain program eligibility.

Is there easy access to Wet Distillers Grains (WDG) from ethanol processing facilities? Wet Distillers Grains usually test about 70 percent moisture and can be ensiled with corn residue to make a good source of feed for dry stock and pregnant animals. Mix at a level to keep the moisture content of the mixture over 50 percent so adequate ensiling occurs.

Adding WDG to corn silage can also extend the amount of feed available. WDG can also be fed directly to livestock as a supplemental feed. The WDG do not store very long in open air so you need lots of animals or very little WDG at a time. Knowing the sulfur content of the WDG is important as high levels of sulfur in a ration impacts the well being of the livestock being fed. Both wet and dry distillers grains can be fed in limited quantities to livestock. Consult with a trained animal nutritionist for proper utilization of these products.

Stockpiling pasture growth for late-autumn use. If adequate rainfall begins soon, there is still opportunity to stockpile cool-season pasture growth in the late summer and early fall. Stockpiling refers to growth of forage in some paddocks of a rotational grazing system in the late summer and early fall and defers the grazing of the forage until mid-to-late fall. The addition of 50 lbs. of N per acre by mid-August in grass-dominant paddocks to be stockpiled should be considered to produce greater forage yield.

Drought-damaged corn harvested as silage. Another forage resource that should be considered is corn that was damaged by dry weather and will not produce an economic grain yield. The whole plant can be harvested as silage and fed as a component of the livestock ration. Contact the Farm Service Agency and crop insurance personnel to see what requirements need to be considered before silage harvest begins. Nitrate level in drought-damaged corn is an issue but nitrate remaining in the forage is reduced after ensiling. Analysis of the silage for nitrate level by a feed testing laboratory will help to determine the upper limit that silage that can be fed so nitrate toxicity will not occur.

Contact your Purdue Extension Educator for additional suggestions on extending the supply of winter feed. The Indiana Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative committee is planning an early winter tour around the state to share examples of some of these feeding options. Watch for announcements for these upcoming events.

Keith Johnson and Committee, Indiana's Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative. Dr. Keith Johnson is a professor within the Department of Agronomy of Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN.

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